

The Hon. John Alexander OAM MP

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, and Cities

PO Box 6021

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

The Australian Government's role in the development of cities

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Inquiry into the Australian Government's role in the development of cities.

The Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia (ASSA) promotes excellence in the social sciences in Australia, and the application of knowledge produced by the social sciences in public policy. It coordinates promotion of research, teaching and advice in the social sciences, it promotes national and international scholarly cooperation across disciplines and sectors, and it helps provide advice to government on issues of national importance.

The Academy is an independent, interdisciplinary body of leading social scientists who have been recognised for their contributions to their fields. Our purpose is to enhance the quality, relevance and impact of social science research in Australia.

This submission (attached) commends to you two reports prepared by the Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA) as part of the Securing Australia's Future (SAF) program. The results of this program can be found at the following URL:

<https://acola.org.au/wp/securing-australia-s-future/>

The first report may be relevant as a whole. It is also pertinent that it has been through a rigorous management and review process across the four Learned Academies. This is the report 'Delivering Sustainable Urban Mobility'.

A second report on Australia's Comparative Advantage is also relevant but much more general. However, there was a commissioned consultancy for the report specifically on topics pertinent to this inquiry.

We would hope that the Inquiry may wish to draw on this material.

Also, we would add, the Academy and Fellows of the Academy are available for more detailed follow up if required. In particular, I am in a position to recommend two Fellows as expert witnesses, namely Professor Brendan Gleeson FASSA, and Professor Graeme Davison AO FAHA FASSA. They have agreed to having their names provided.

To further discuss this submission please contact Dylan Clements of the Academy Secretariat at dylan.clements@assa.edu.au, or on 02 6249 1788.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenn Withers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Professor Glenn Withers AO

Chair

Inquiry into the Australian Government's role in the development of cities

Response of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia

11-05-18

On Tuesday 30 May 2017, The Hon. Darren Chester MP, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, asked the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities, to conduct an Inquiry into the Australian Government's role in the development of cities. The Committee invited interested persons and organisations to make submissions addressing the terms of reference.

What follows is the response of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, seeking to assist in several aspects of the Inquiry.

Commendation of Reports

The peak body for Learned Academies in Australia, namely the Australian Council of Learned Academies, coordinated the preparation of twelve reports on issues of national importance as part of the Securing Australia's Future (SAF) program. These were prepared for submission to Australia's Chief Scientist. They can be found at the following URL:

<https://acola.org.au/wp/securing-australia-s-future/>

Two of the reports from the SAF program are salient to the present inquiry.

The first and most pertinent ACOLA report is 'Sustainable Urban Mobility', which was published in 2015. This report can be found at the following URL:

https://acola.org.au/wp/PDF/SAF08/SAF08_FullReport_web.pdf¹

The Academy suggests the Committee will find the whole report relevant to its inquiry.

¹ Armstrong B, Davison G, de Vos Malan J, Gleeson B, & Godfrey B, *Delivering Sustainable Urban Mobility*, Report for the Australian Council of Learned Academies, 2015, < www.acola.org.au > retrieved 10-05-18

The second report is 'Australia's Comparative Advantage', which was also published in 2015. This report can be found at the following URL:

<https://acola.org.au/wp/PDF/SAF01/SAF01%20full%20lo%20res.pdf>²

The Academy would especially like to draw the attention of the Committee to Chapters Two and Four from this report, and also to a commissioned consultancy report that informed these chapters in turn. The consultancy from two Monash University urban geographers is: 'Culture, Creativity, Cultural Economy: A Review', by Professor Justin O'Connor and Associate Professor Mark Gibson, and it can be found at the following URL:

<https://acola.org.au/wp/PDF/SAF01/6.%20Culture%20creativity%20cultural%20economy.pdf>³

Recommendation of Expert Witnesses

In addition to the preceding reports, the Academy commends two expert witnesses to the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities: Professor Brendan Gleeson FASSA, and Professor Graeme Davison AO FAHA FASSA.

Professor Brendan Gleeson is the Director of the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute, at the University of Melbourne. He joined Melbourne University in January 2012 as Professor of Urban Policy Studies and then took on the directorship of the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute in early 2013. Professor Gleeson came from the position of Deputy Director of the National University of Ireland's National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis. Prior to that he set up the Urban Research Program at Griffith University and was its inaugural Director. Professor Gleeson has made significant scholarly contributions in urban and social policy, environmental theory and policy and is a regular commentator in newspapers, television and radio. He has qualifications in geography and urban planning, including a masters degree from the University of Southern California and a

² Withers G, Gupta N, Curtis L, & Larkins N, *Australia's Comparative Advantage*, Report for the Australian Council of Learned Academies, 2015, < www.acola.org.au > retrieved 10-05-18

³ O'Connor J & Gibson M, 'Culture, Creativity, Cultural Economy: A Review', *Australia's Comparative Advantage*, Consultation Document for the Australian Council of Learned Academies, 2014, < <https://acola.org.au/wp/PDF/SAF01/6.%20Culture%20creativity%20cultural%20economy.pdf> > retrieved 11-05-18

PhD from the University of Melbourne. He is the author or editor of thirteen books, three of which have won national and international prizes, as well as numerous journal articles. His research interests include urban planning and governance, urban social policy, disability studies, and environmental theory and policy. His recent work has focused on socio-spatial analysis of suburbs, their vulnerability to oil shocks and the need for better public transport options. Professor Gleeson was the inaugural recipient of the John Iremonger Award for Writing on Public Issues (Allen & Unwin Publishers) leading to the publication of his seminal book *Australian Heartlands: Making Space for Hope in the Suburbs*. His latest book is *The Urban Condition* (Routledge 2014).⁴

Professor Graeme Davison is Emeritus Sir John Monash Distinguished Professor of History at Monash University. He was educated at the University of Melbourne and Oxford University where he was a Victorian Rhodes Scholar. He has held academic appointments at the University of Melbourne and Monash University, and visiting appointments at Edinburgh, Harvard, ANU, Tübingen and King's College London. He has written widely on the history of Australia, especially on Australian cities, where his books include *The Rise and Fall of Marvellous Melbourne* (1978 and 2004), *The Unforgiving Minute* (1994), *The Use and Abuse of Australian History* (2000), *Car Wars: How the Car Won Our Hearts and Changed Our Cities* (2004) and *Trendyville: The Battle for Australia's Inner Cities* (2015). He has advised or served on the boards of several public bodies, including the Heritage Council of Victoria, the National Museum of Australia, the National Archives of Australia and the State Library of Victoria. His next book, *The City Dreamers: The Urban Imagination in Australia*, will appear in 2016⁵.

Professor Gleeson FASSA can be contacted directly at:

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Professor Davison AO FAHA FASSA can be contacted directly at:

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E: graeme.davison@monash.edu

⁴ Armstrong et al., *Delivering Sustainable Urban Mobility*, p. 125;

c.f. Prof. Gleeson's staff profile: <https://msd.unimelb.edu.au/about/our-people/academic/brendan-gleeson>

⁵ Armstrong et al., *Delivering Sustainable Urban Mobility*, p. 124;

c.f. Prof. Davison's staff profile: <http://profiles.arts.monash.edu.au/graeme-davison/>

List of References:

Armstrong B, Davison G, de Vos Malan J, Gleeson B, and Godfrey B, *Delivering Sustainable Urban Mobility*, Report for the Australian Council of Learned Academies, 2015,

< www.acola.org.au > retrieved 10-05-18

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< <https://acola.org.au/wp/PDF/SAF01/6.%20Culture%20creativity%20cultural%20economy.pdf> > retrieved 11-05-18